

RADIO STAMPS

by

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"DX Partyline" Program
of Radio Station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador

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Hello again, and welcome to the September edition of **Radio Stamps**. This is program 26, and the subject today is radio stations on postage stamps.

From Peru last month, and the Radio Nacional station at San Miguel, we're travelling today all the way to the Solomon Islands to visit the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. I remember well the first time I heard the Solomon Islands on shortwave. It was ten years ago, on August 31, 1982, high in the Rocky Mountains. I took part in a DXpedition, in the province of Alberta, for the 20th anniversary of the Canadian International DX Club. At 6,500 feet above sea level, and far from any electrical noise, our campsite was well suited for great radio reception. The spectacular mountain scenery all around us was an added bonus.

What a treat it was to hear the Solomon Islands loud and clear on both 5020 and 9545 kHz. I missed a few features while swatting some of the giant, hungry insects that ventured into our tent. I finally had to tune out to get warm again. It was very cold that morning high up in the mountains, even though I was listening to a tropical station, and wearing a heavy sweater, leather jacket and boots.

The first radio station in the Solomon Islands was WVUQ, of the Armed Forces Radio Service. It was established in 1944 at Guadalcanal. The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Service was inaugurated in September 1952, and radio station VQO began regular broadcasts on 1030 kHz. The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation was established in 1976.

There are three postage stamps from the Solomon Islands, featuring the Broadcasting Corporation, that would be great additions to your collection. They were issued on July 2nd, 1984, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union. The 45c issue shows the wooden building of Radio City Guadalcanal among the palm trees. The 60c denomination features the control panel, turntables, microphone and announcer of a broadcast studio. The inscription on the stamp says "SIBC Studios Honiara/Gizo/Lata". The \$1 issue shows the broadcasting building of the Corporation, including the logo

logo of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. The Scott catalogue numbers for these attractive stamps are 527, 528 and 529.

A special thank you this month to everyone that has written during the past few months. Your contributions to the **Radio Stamps** programme, and your comments and suggestions for improvements, are always welcome. I'll give you my mailing address at the end of this feature.

I'm sure you'll agree that the audio quality of the **Radio Stamps** program has greatly improved over the past four months. The program is now recorded at Lakeside Studios at Clayton Lake near Almonte. With me again today at the controls is Randall Prescott, better known for his award this year in Canada as record producer of the year. A special thanks again to Randall Prescott at Lakeside Studios for the great new sound of the **Radio Stamps** program.

The **Radio Stamps** program is sponsored this year by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the mailing costs of this volunteer program on HCJB. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces the monthly Journal, and a sample copy is available for only \$2. I also write a quarterly column called **Radio Stamps** that is featured in the Journal with illustrations and collecting tips. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address: North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, or PA for short. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is the North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA, 19507, U.S.A.

That's all for today. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is KOA 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, KOA 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.